

# Many Voices

University of St. Thomas

Spring 2018



2018 Minneapolis Chocolate Reception and February Feminist Friday

**Ideas. Practice. Action. Change.** Such has been the path projected by the programs and events of the Luann Dummer Center for Women over the 2017 fall semester and into 2018 spring, exploring the many facets of our 2017-2018 theme "Women and Economic Justice."

The Feminist Fridays throughout the fall revolved around solidifying ideas into action: from empowering women at the bottom of the economic pyramid through peace engineering, to supporting UST woman students to transform passions into business, to sustaining women to be on the forefront of politics for change.

To amplify women's voices in politics, the LDCW repeated last year's effort of sending 10 students to the Women's March on Washington by sending 10 students to Detroit to the Women's Convention this past fall. You will find their accounts inside the following pages. You will also find reflections on Trans Solidarity Day, a rapidly assembled event to create a space for intellectual dialogue on the important topic that called for many voices. Thanks to the collaboration of remarkably supportive and energetic

members of the UST community, we were able to host an all day academic event filled with multi-disciplinary educational sessions under the banner of Trans Solidarity Day. The LDCW is grateful to everyone who worked together to create such an empowering and important event and allowed the other side of an important conversation to be present. Such dialogue, fostering education and self-reflection, is, after all, the key to academic life.

**With a strong fall of events behind us, the LDCW excitedly launches our spring programs**, with our signature event in Women's History Month. Our speaker this year was acclaimed photojournalist Lynsey Addario, who presented on "Women's Work in the Time of War." Addario not only uses her photography to shift society's perspective on war, but on what it means to be a woman photojournalist. *(Continued on page 2)*



**LYNSEY ADDARIO**  
2018 Women's History  
Month Speaker

**A magazine of the University of St. Thomas Luann Dummer Center for Women, the University Advocates for Women and Equity, and the Women's Studies Program**

(Continued from cover)

Embedded in such war-torn countries as Syria and Afghanistan, Addario's photographs contain the poignancy only found hidden in the details of the most often overlooked, the most vulnerable of society, and, oftentimes, the undercounted casualties of war.

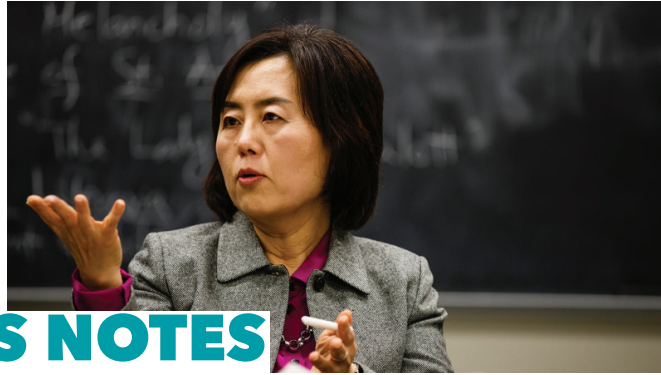
Putting herself in such dangerous situations, scenarios otherwise assumed only accessible or "appropriate" for her male colleagues, Addario obliterates the line set between a woman and her passion. In so doing, she inspires many women to look at a new set of options and possibilities, not only within the fast-paced, at times perilous, world of photojournalism, but in the framework of all careers.

In anticipation, the LDCW provided ample opportunities to prepare all members of the UST community to get the most out of Addario's visit. Our first Feminist Friday of the spring launched a photo contest titled "Seeing the Unseen," a theme inspired by Addario's work, where participants use the art of photography to put the theme into practice. Nearly 100 copies of Addario's memoir *It's What I Do* have been distributed to UST classes and community members. The LDCW also hosted an extra Book Circle in February to accommodate interested readers.

Exploring "Women and Economic Justice" has made 2017-2018 **a year of collective action** from the UST community and from within the LDCW. We hope you enjoy reading about it in these upcoming pages, that you feel encouraged and energized by the momentum continuously building at the LDCW, and that you join us soon and add your voice to the conversation.



Lynsey Addario and LDCW friends, staff, and student workers after her lecture on International Women's Day, March 8th, 2018



Dr. Young-ok An, LDCW;  
English and Women's Studies

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

### Spring Forward for the LDCW's 25th Anniversary

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Spring brings new energy and optimism. We feel revitalized with the renewal of the season. Seeing the long Minnesotan winter reluctantly waning, we expect the color green to begin to spread out and the sun to gear up to its full reign. We will gladly toss aside our overworked winter armors one layer at a time. I smile at students who must be impatient for the days of shorts and sandals. Spring is special for Minnesotans.

**For the LDCW, this spring is particularly special since it marks the Center's 25th Anniversary.** Along with the advisory board and the LDCW team, I am happy for and proud of what we do. Our space—brimming with books, artworks, and signs of a variety of issues we are involved with—has been a vital part of the University, while growing and strengthening together.

Our goal has been to provide opportunities for the university community to learn about women's and gender-related issues and their ramifications through educational forums, discussions, and events; and to empower women in a variety of ways. Recently, we have been consistent in fostering awareness and action on issues related to sexual violence and misconduct, and in building and supporting feminist activism in the wake of the Women's Marches and Women's Convention. For example, in the past months leading up to the Super Bowl in Minneapolis, we worked to counter sexual trafficking, through our book circle discussion and through a lecture by the Hon. Bukola Oriola, an author and activist in the field (partnering with HR).



**President Julie Sullivan**  
gave the Welcome for the 2018 Women's  
History Month Speaker Lynsey Addario.

**Since social changes occur through steady, tireless work, we are committed to regular programs that engage with many facets of our goals.**

Especially when we are reflecting on the spectrum of women's work itself (with our yearly theme of women and economic justice), I'd like to draw attention to our monthly educational programs such as book circle discussions and lectures co-sponsored with Student Diversity and Inclusion Services. These programs keep us examining women's work and lives, and help us continue searching for ways to contribute to problem-solving.

**As we go past the first one-quarter mark of a century, the LDCW will be working hard to build voices, circles, hopes, networks, and bonds for the future.**

# LDCW FEMINIST FRIDAY TALKS

**SEEING THE UNSEEN  
PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP**  
February 9



## **Drs. Debra Petersen & Heather Shirey**

In preparation for Women's History Month speaker, photojournalist Lynsey Addario, Drs. Debra Petersen from COJO and Heather Shirey of Art History discussed the power of photographs and photographers, as well as various techniques used to take impactful photos. This Feminist Friday informed and launched a university-wide photography contest called "Seeing the Unseen," where UST community members submitted photos alongside a synopsis of how the photo supported the theme. The winners were announced at the LDCW Women's History Month Speaker.



Camille Fredin & mom Dr. Debra Petersen after February Feminist Friday presentation

**THE POETICS OF PROTEST: FEMINIST  
RESISTANCE ACROSS THE 20TH CENTURY**  
February 16



## **Dr. Emily James, Rachel Busse, & Kerry Kraemer**

Dr. Emily James and graduate students Rachel Busse and Kerry Kraemer from the English Department presented their research on slogans and signs from women's rallies, ranging from the Women's Suffrage Movement of the early 20th century to Riot Grrrl, the underground feminist punk movement of the early 1990s. The team compiled their research to create and inform a website called "The Poetics of Protest: An Exhibit of Feminist Resistance" and can be found here: <http://www.poeticsofprotest.com/>



Kerry Kraemer presents alongside Dr. Emily James and Rachel Busse at Feminist Friday.

# LDCW FEMINIST FRIDAY TALKS

## IDENTITY & EXPRESSION IN NATIVE AMERICAN ART

April 13



### Dr. Heather Shirey & Panel

Organized by Dr. Heather Shirey of Art History, this roundtable discussion will highlight art, creative production, and identity of Native American Artists and feature UST students Kerry Kraemer, Dakota Hoska, Alexandra Buffalohead, Winonah Owen-Reese, Savannah Thibert, and UST alum Rita Walaszek.

## ACTIVATING FEMINISM FOR THE FUTURE

April 27



### Dr. Katharine Hill & Detroit Women's Convention Participants

Participants of the Detroit Women’s Convention will discuss their experience and introduce strategies to “activate” feminism. The panel will be facilitated by Dr. Katharine Hill of Social Work. Dr. Hill is a national thought-leader on Voting as Social Work and is committed to educating people to become leaders, advocates, and change agents in their communities.



Dr. Heather Shirey leads discussion at February Feminist Friday.

# WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS



**Dr. Susan Myers**

Chair of Women's Studies,  
Theology Department

#MeToo. Backlash to #MeToo. Time's Up. Aziz Ansari. Larry Nassar's sentencing. The election of Danica Roem. The death of Recy Taylor. The report that the Global Gender Gap is growing. Record numbers of women running for office in the U.S. The reality of child marriage in the U.S. Women's marches, meetings, conferences, movements.

**Our country—indeed, the world—has been rocked** recently by scandals, movements, and revelations, with strong women claiming their voices and demanding societal transformation, while at the same time new stories of abuse and horror, both past and present, emerge almost daily. Yet in some ways, none of this is new. And for over twenty-five years, the Women's Studies program at St. Thomas has been examining the issues that give rise to recent headlines in the news. It is too early to say that we have been vindicated in our concerns, but there is certainly reason to hope for lasting change.

Drawing attention to partial truths (or blatant lies); challenging patriarchy; shining the beacon of justice on behaviors and views that flourish in darkness; recognizing the various levels of jeopardy faced by individuals when there is discrimination based on class, race, ability, religion, ethnicity, country of origin, as well as gender; highlighting the contributions in every field of women as well as gender or sexual minorities—all of this and so much more is central to the academic field of Women's Studies. Studying these issues and working for justice is not new to this field. To paraphrase the words of Lynsey Addario (2018 Women's History Month speaker): It's what we do. The rest of the world is finally beginning to catch up to us. Join us! You will find yourself on the right side of history, and better equipped to navigate a changing world.

To celebrate the hard work of our students, the UST Women's Studies program had a student conference, at which students shared their research on issues related to gender and sexuality, on Friday, March 2nd. It was not required that students be Women's Studies majors or minors to participate. We all learned from one another.

Some of our students are entering their final semester at UST to explore new ideas, hone writing skills, complete an internship, or conduct in-depth research. Again this year, the Women's Studies program will be graduating a large class of nine minors and two majors in May 2018, students who are prepared to go forth to change the world! We wish them well.



UST students Emma Pasiuk and Taylor Cretton read *Many Voices* at the Minneapolis Chocolate Reception.

# REPORT ON THE UAWWE

## (University Advocates for Women and Equity)



**Dr. Jessica Hodge**

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice

The UAWWE had a productive fall semester. In October, I had the honor of taking on the role of chair for the UAWWE Coordinating Council after Liz Dussol, from Academic Counseling, stepped down from the position. After serving as a member on the council for several years and as chair for the past few years, Liz felt it was time for someone else to take her place. We certainly miss having Liz on the council, and will always be grateful for the time and energy she put into the UAWWE.

Though I am still learning all that is involved with being chair, I am excited to take on this new role. I have had the privilege of serving on the council since spring 2016 and look forward to continuing to fulfill the mission of the UAWWE, which includes supporting and advocating for women at the University of St. Thomas through policy recommendations and programming efforts.

My new role is particularly exciting as we welcomed five new members to UAWWE this past fall. The new members come from a variety of backgrounds, and include staff, faculty and students from all aspects of campus life. The new members offer fresh perspectives that are both invigorating and necessary for us to continue our work.

Also in October, the UAWWE held our annual **Fall Reception to welcome new women employees to St. Thomas**. The reception is always a wonderful opportunity to meet new employees, including both staff and faculty, and to offer the new employees a brief history of the Coordinating Council's role on campus.

In December, the UAWWE sponsored another event, along with the LDCW and the Office of Violence Prevention and Awareness, that included a discussion regarding the #MeToo movement. Our goal for this event was to offer a space for folks to reflect on the movement, while also offering strategies for how we can ensure continued movement forward, both on and off campus.

We knew that there was interest on campus for this type of discussion, but we were pleasantly surprised with the number of folks that came out; in fact, we had to move the event from the LDCW to the OEC Auditorium in order to make space for all of the attendees. We had a very insightful discussion about the #MeToo movement, are grateful for all of those who participated, and we look forward to continuing these discussions in the future.

This semester we will continue the tradition of our annual **Spring Reception on April 26, 2018 from 4 to 6 pm in McNeely Hall 100**. The reception is open to the entire UST community, and refreshments will be provided. Please mark your calendars! The Spring Reception is an opportunity for us to celebrate the many accomplishments across campus related to the mission of the UAWWE, and to honor the recipients of our signature awards.



# LDCW GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The Luann Dummer Center for Women is pleased to offer several grant opportunities for faculty, staff and students.

Information for all grants and awards is available on our website:

<https://www.stthomas.edu/lcdw/grantopportunities/>

## 2017-2018 AWARDEES

### UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Camille Fredin (Communication and Journalism and Women's Studies Majors, Class of 2018)

Madalyn Rudkin (Justice & Peace Studies Major, Class of 2019)

### GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Keith Pille (Art History, Class of 2018)

### LDCW STUDENT LEADERSHIP GRANT

Carly Johnson (Biology Major, Legal Studies Minor, Class of 2018)

Grant Type	Deadline
WOMEN'S STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP	March 13, 2018
LDCW STUDENT LEADERSHIP GRANT	March 16, 2018
UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP	March 16, 2018
GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP	March 16, 2018
CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT	April 6, 2018
WOMEN'S STUDIES FACULTY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GRANT	April 6, 2018
SMALL GRANT	Applications are accepted throughout the year
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD	Applications are accepted throughout the year

With a **grant from the LDCW**, Dr. Sarah Schmalenberger of Music collaborated with the Swing Sisterhood Big Band and composers Laura Caviani and Kari Musil to re-create **Mary Lou Williams' "Music for Peace."** The performance took place in the Aquinas Chapel on Sunday, February 11th, 2018.

Dr. Schmalenberger will discuss this project in a **Feminist Friday this upcoming Fall 2018.** Stay tuned!

Photo features LDCW Director Dr. Young-ok An, Dr. Sarah Schmalenberger, and Dr. Sherry Jordon of Theology.  
Photo Credit: CavittProductions.com





# GREETINGS FROM QSA!

QSA is pleased to have wrapped up a very busy and eventful fall semester! Our first major event was Pride Week, which included a number of eye-opening, informative events for our campus community. These included Pride Flag making in the create[space], a screening of the film "Lady Valor," and concluded with the Pride Dance, where members of the St. Thomas, St. Kate's and Macalester communities came together to celebrate the success of the week.

In November, we presented a "QSA Q&A" where members of our campus LGBTQ+ community hosted a panel discussion about queer identities, using TodaysMeet for audience members to submit questions anonymously. We had a great turnout for the event and received very positive audience feedback.

QSA was also proud to take part in Trans Solidarity Day. During the day, the LDCW hosted lectures and presentations by various St. Thomas faculty about

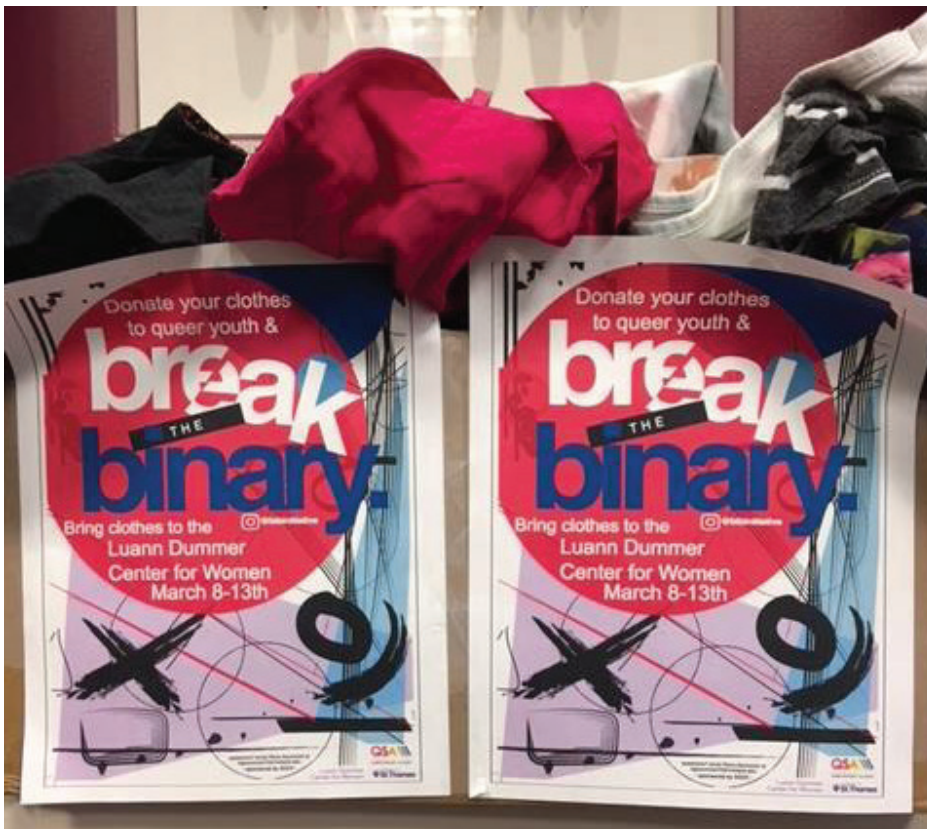
gender and sexuality. In the evening, a panel of St. Thomas faculty led a discussion about gender in response to the School of Divinity's conference. All events were heavily attended, and QSA is grateful to the LDCW, and the rest of the St. Thomas community, for hosting this important and successful event.

If you are interested in joining QSA, come to our meetings on Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 pm in OEC 206.

## JOIN US!

We are excited to grow our club and reach out to the St. Thomas community.

**QSA meets  
Thursdays from  
5:30-6:30 p.m. in  
OEC 206.**



Along with St. Kate's PRIDE Club, QSA helped **break the binary** by organizing and collecting clothing for queer youth.

# TRANS\*SOLIDARITY DAY

On December 11th, the Luann Dummer Center for Women hosted an event called Trans Solidarity Day. The following pages contain reports from those who presented.



**Dr. Corrine Carvalho**

*Interim Dean, Social Work*

Based on some previously published work, Dr. Corrine Carvalho examined Old Testament texts that have often been overlooked as possible resources for gender diversity in the ancient world. Carvalho looked at texts in Genesis to show that assumptions about the ancient world's classifications of gender shape the interpretations of biblical texts. For example, in Genesis 1, humans are created as both male and female in the likeness of God, which suggests that the ancient author viewed the deity as encompassing both male and female characteristics. In Mesopotamia, the deity who has that similar ability is served by transgender priests, demonstrating that transgender identities were not shunned, but rather embraced and sacralized.



**Dr. Sarah Schmalenberger**

*Music*

Musicologist and hornist Sarah Schmalenberger presented an overview of notable LGBTQ composers from the Middle Ages to current times, whose contributions to the canon of western European concert repertoire are well known. Although the fruits of these composers' labors continue to be enjoyed as cultural commodities in western societies, the composers themselves continue to be nevertheless closeted in historical narratives that avoid critical discussion about their gender and sexuality. Transgender musicians, Schmalenberger suggested, seem to have been acceptable in western Europe from the mid-17th century through the 19th with the burgeoning practice of castrati within the institutions of the Catholic church and opera companies. The hypocrisy of "consume the music, discard the person" thus illuminates a fissure within western society regarding the nature of creating, engaging, and appreciating art as reflections of the whole human experience. **The world would be very silent** without the music of people whose gender and sexuality are deemed inadmissible for full inclusion into the human race.



**Dr. Lauren Braswell**

*Psychology*

Psychology, like all human endeavors, evolves in a socio-cultural context. As a field of knowledge, it has sometimes reflected the prejudices and poor understandings of various phenomena that characterize a given period in human history. Clearly, this has been the case with topics related to the study of gender identity and sexual orientation. But self-correction is part of every science, so as the data from new and more comprehensive studies have been presented, the dominant views within the field have changed. For example, homosexuality as a diagnostic category was removed from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the Mental Sciences (DSM; American Psychiatric Association) in 1973. The diagnostic category of Gender Identity Disorder was removed from the current version of this manual, DSM-5, in 2013. There remains a category, Gender Dysphoria, which is a diagnosis given when someone is experiencing distress or discomfort as a result of conflict between their physical or assigned gender and the gender with which she/

# TRANS\*SOLIDARITY DAY

he/they identify. Gender dysphoria involves much more than just gender nonconforming behavior, and simply behaving in a manner inconsistent with current cultural norms about gender is certainly not considered evidence of a mental disorder.

In addition to changes in thinking about diagnostic categories, more recent treatment-oriented research supports the value of pursuing an affirming, client-centered, multicultural approach to both sexual orientation and gender identity concerns. Based on a review of available data, the leading professional medical, health, and mental organizations in America oppose the use of sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE), for such conversion efforts may cause significant harm and distress for impacted individuals. In addition, there is evidence indicating that family acceptance and school support are related to more positive outcomes for sexual minority youth.



**Dr. Elizabeth Wilkinson**

*English*

**Kerry Kraemer**

*Graduate English*

Kerry Kraemer (Oneida), along with Dr. Liz Wilkinson, spoke to concerned students, faculty, staff, and visitors about indigenous views of gender fluidity. They cited, among other elders and scholars, author Leslie Marmon Silko. Silko's *Yellow Woman and the Beauty of the Spirit* discusses traditional Laguna Pueblo worldviews; rather than simply tolerate gender fluid peoples, their societies consider peoples who can occupy a gender fluid space as necessary to the functioning of a healthy society. Wilkinson and Kraemer hoped to open up discussion in that same manner -- the idea that our society needs peoples all along the gender continuum.



**Dr. Debra Broderick**

*Training Director/Staff  
Psychologist, CAPS*



**Dr. Steve T. Maurer**

*Director of Counseling  
and Psychological  
Services*

Our office was asked to facilitate a discussion toward the end of the day, but prior to the evening events. We had a group of about 20 gathered to share thoughts and reflections on the day's events. My co-facilitator, Steve Maurer, and I decided to let the group set the direction of the discussion. We opened with some of our own reflections on the day and then asked the group to share their thoughts and feelings in the open space. We heard from students, a parent or two, staff, and faculty, all reflecting on either the positive changes they've seen at UST regarding becoming a more inclusive campus, especially to LGBT students, or offering thoughts on what still needed to change. Several people shared feelings of sadness, confusion, or anger at the misinformation about the trans community being put forth by the speakers of the "Man, Woman, and Creation" conference and reflected on the work yet to be done in the world for trans acceptance and rights. Also, some people shared moments of being in close proximity to the other conference's attendees and wondering how two sides could bridge the emotional, political, or religious divide between them. Steve and I were moved by the openness and willingness to hear more, to dialog with those of differing views, while also maintaining a sense of individual and group pride as trans people, allies, and, across the board as members of the UST community. It was inspiring! Thanks so much for asking us to part of this day.

# TRANS\*SOLIDARITY DAY



**Dr. Colin Martin**

*Biology*

The question of 'what does it mean to be transgender' (or even the question more likely to be posed by opponents of the nascent trans rights movement: 'is being transgender a real thing?') is inherently biological. It is impossible to assert any answer to either question without basing it on biological science research. But, as I see it, this is not a question that biologists (or psychologists, or sociologists) can fully answer yet, because for centuries the default in western countries has been to rule out even the possibility of gender non-conformity. Before we can truly understand the biological reasons why someone might identify as transgender/gender non-conforming, we have to accept that this is real, that people are only just starting to feel safe enough identifying themselves in public, and that their lived experience and perspectives are valid.

As a cis-gendered, heterosexual white male I mainly wanted to convey the importance of being open to other people's experience, being willing to listen and hear what they have to say about their own lives, and to find a way to state clearly that this is what good, sound, accurate science requires of us. As scientists, we have to be open to all possible outcomes, and to rule out certain testimony or evidence will inevitably lead to a flawed or inaccurate conclusion. I had in mind the undergraduate students in my Biology classes as the people to whom I was speaking: young, idealistic, and still learning.

The world is much bigger than any of us know or understand, and it is important to keep an open mind and really listen to the world and what it is telling us if we want our understanding to improve.

Trans\*Solidarity Day showed we have a strong group of socially aware and invested students, faculty, and staff who are interested in supporting all members of the UST community, and that this was **one additional step on the road to a fully inclusive university**. It gave hope and encouraged me to do more in my own teaching, advising, and collaboration to achieve this goal.

## TRANS\* SOLIDARITY DAY

Share messages of support, welcome & solidarity,  
8-7 p.m in the Luann Dummer Center for Women  
Mini-discussion events will be offered throughout the day.

Space Keepers: Vern Klobassa, Margaret Cahill, Rachel Harris, Britain Scott, Amy Ledin, Liz Dussol, Karen Lange and Emily Kindelspire

11:00am Roxanne Prichard, Psychology:  
"The Science of Sex and Gender"

12:00pm Sarah Schmalenberger, Music:  
"Music By the LGBTQ+ Composers: A Historical Perspective"

1:00pm Kurt Illig, Biology:  
"Ask a Neuroscientist"

2:00pm Sue Myers, Theology and WMST:  
"What the Bible Really Says about Gender"

3:00pm Liz Wilkinson and Kerry Kraemer, English:  
"Indigenous perspective on Gender and Sexuality"

4:00pm Emily Erickson, Student Affairs:  
"Supporting Trans and Queer Members of the Community, Especially Survivors of Sexual Violence"

5:00pm Debra Broderick and Steve Maurer, Counseling: "Open Topic: Supportive Conversation"

7:30-9:00pm Dorsey Way in the Anderson Student Center  
"Gender, Sexuality, and the Reality of Creation: Academic Perspectives"

**Moderators:** Cara Anthony, Theology

Jill Manske, Health and Human Performance

**Panelists:** Corrine Carvalho, Theology: "Transgender Identity in the Old Testament: A Case Study in the Connection between Assumptions and Conclusions"

Young-ok An, English and Women's Studies: "A Literary Perspective on the Biblical Creation Narrative: Milton, Wollstonecraft, and Beyond"

Colin Martin, Biology

Lauren Braswell, Psychology: "Psychology Evolves in a Sociocultural Context: Progress Towards More Sensitive, Affirming, and Evidence-Based Care."

Lisa Waldner, Sociology and Family Studies

# TRANS\*SOLIDARITY DAY



**Dr. Lisa K. Waldner**

*Associate Dean,  
College of Arts and Sciences, Professor of Sociology*

As a sociologist I understand gender and sexuality as a social construction rather than as an essentialist or “natural” phenomena. That means that labels such as transgender, heterosexual, lesbian, gender queer and so forth are social categories because these arise from interaction and are dependent on others for social recognition. Because these categories are stigmatized, ways of recognizing these identities often involve regulation.

Not knowing whether someone is male or female is deeply troubling to those of us living in a binary society. We punish people for violating gendered expectations. This is rooted in both misogyny and homophobia. We punish people for giving up male privilege and others for attempting to appropriate that privilege. Advocates for acceptance often try to “normalize” gender and sexually transgressive identities by arguing either that these categories also occur in nature and/or are statistically normal. For me, all people should be treated with dignity and respect, regardless if they are “born this way” or comprise a larger or smaller proportion of the population.



**Dr. Susan Myers**

*Chair of Women's Studies; Theology*

Because biblical texts are often used to marginalize sexual and gender minorities, I thought it would be helpful to discuss what the Bible really says about gender. This is not as simple as it may first appear, since biblical texts were written, by individuals and groups with widely divergent views, over many centuries and then transmitted over many more centuries since then. At Trans Solidarity Day, I presented stories that challenge binary understandings of gender and give evidence of fluidity in the understanding of gender in the ancient world. This fluidity applies not only to humans, but also to God; there are feminine images of God (woman in labor, divine wisdom [depicted as a woman]), as well as masculine images (father, king), and inanimate images of God (rock, fortress). For our trans brothers and sisters, perhaps the most significant message is that of Isaiah 56, in which the prophet says that God assures the self-effacing “eunuch” (a person born male who had been castrated and was living a non-binary life), “To the eunuchs ... I will give a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.” How can we deny anyone the generosity and favor that God so freely gives?



# TRANS\*SOLIDARITY DAY

## Thoughts from QSA...

Even though there was very little time to plan this event, thanks to many people's hard and efficient work, Trans Solidarity Day was a huge success! As a transgender individual, it was one of the most inspirational and eye-opening events I have ever attended. Nearly every department on campus banded together to provide support to the UST transgender community. Attendants wore pins to show support, wrote positive messages on boards for the transgender community, and attended talks throughout the day led by professors from a variety of academic fields, all educating on the Trans community.

On that day, I was overjoyed with the support shown. Throughout the day, I kept running into past and current professors who were attending talks and the panel at the end of the night. I talked with friends, colleagues, strangers, and faculty who proved that I, and other people like me, are accepted, valid, and wanted. I had never felt as accepted as I did that day.

Trans Solidarity Day made a huge positive impact. It proved to the LGBTQIA+ community that when it matters, the people surrounding us will come together to make a difference. It showed that there are more people than many of us realize who support us, and who won't treat us differently for our iden-

tities. It made every transgender person on campus that day feel accepted and valid. It still makes a difference—even today, as I was walking in BEC, I passed an acquaintance wearing a pin from that day and realized that, even though the event has passed, many allies are still doing their best to support the community.

To all of the people who attended a talk, the panel, or wrote words of support on the boards: thank you. **Even the smallest actions make an impact**, and I know for a fact that the support that day made a huge one. Thank you for proving that this campus is accepting. Thank you for having an open mind. Thank you for the pride you made me feel to be a part of the UST community. Thank you for showing up when it mattered.

Stay fabulous!

**Alex Grey**  
*Vice President of QSA*



# REPORT FROM AWE



**Jayda Pounds**

Entrepreneurship Major  
Class of 2019

Procrastination is a real epidemic that finds its way into all of our lives. No matter how much we stay on top of emails, do our homework before bed, or finally have our diet start today instead of tomorrow, procrastination is something we all inevitably experience. When the LDCW brought in Kristi Hemmer, founder of the Academy for Women's Empowerment, I learned that I am procrastinating at this very moment. I do not have to wait until later to finally start the business of my dreams--what is stopping me now? Once I realized I am the only one holding myself back, that changed my entire mindset! One of my dreams is to open a winery and of course I must be 21, so that is a little hinderance, but not for long. I can still take the initiative and do my research, make connections, gain internship experience, and much more once I realize, understand, and utilize my potential.

The workshops that Kristi offered were absolute game changers. One of the first tasks was identifying our little girl passions. For me, I loved baking, playing sports, reading, all the fun stuff as a little girl, and I still enjoy these to this day. Then she asked, "Now what are you going to do to turn that into a business?" I'm guessing my blank stare was not as inspired as she had hoped, but she smiled and said, "Let's work on it."

Through the 4-series workshop, I learned how to figure out my passion, however small or simple it seemed, and then turn it into a business venture. I also learned that **on average women give 90% of their dollar back into the community while men on average give only 35%** of their dollar. Women

have so much more power than what we allow ourselves, and realizing this will be the first step in our journey to success. As women, we should never sell ourselves short- that is what we think we are supposed to do in order to seem more approachable, but this mindset does not allow us to bloom, even when we are in season. If I took anything away from this workshop, it is that I am simultaneously my biggest hinderance and my biggest fan, but I can still change the world.



Students, faculty, and staff gather in create[space] with Lynsey Addario, where a gallery was created for submissions for the photo contest "Seeing the Unseen." The winners were announced after Ms. Addario's lecture.

# THE WOMEN'S CONVENTION: DETROIT

**In collaboration with Economics, English, Political Science, History, Justice & Peace, and American Culture & Difference, the LDCW sent 10 UST students to the Women's Convention in Detroit.**



**Danielle Wong**

*Communications & Journalism Major, Renaissance Business and Justice & Peace Studies Minors, Class of 2020*

A close friend and mentor once told me, "You're Asian at the right time." What he meant was I am living in a time where age-old barriers for people of color, especially the Asian American community, are being broken left and right. If I had been born even five years ago, I may not have experienced the strides in human rights that I am today.

I believe I am also a woman at the right time. I had the unique opportunity of attending the Women's March on Washington last year and also the Women's Convention, Detroit this year. It's not often you see a historic movement directly lead into something as tangible as a national women's convention. I couldn't believe the resources that were available

to us throughout the three days - not only were there dozens of panels and topics to choose from, but rooms for yoga and relaxation so people could de-stress and process.

Many of the panels I attended reminded me of what I should be working toward, and many others challenged my feminism to be more inclusive, more intersectional, more brave. If I learned anything from the convention, it was that in order to help others achieve their full potential, you must first help yourself achieve your full potential.

On the second day, a spoken word artist named Mama Sol moved many to tears, including myself. I asked her, "How are you able to write and articulate a truth so profound?" Mama Sol smiled at me and spoke softly, years of wisdom in her voice, "In order to tell the truth, I had to learn to tell my truth."

The Women's March on Washington was an historic event, but the Women's Convention made history yet again. Every day, we continue to make history again. And again. And again. Because **we're not just the history, we're the future, and our future is unstoppable.**



**Alexandra Griffin**

*School of Law, Class of 2020*

The minute I walked into the convention hall I remembered the power of women. We weren't there to simply reclaim the narrative. We were there to command issues, set high goals, and implement the structures required to meet and exceed them. I was reminded that every issue is a women's issue. I was shaken out of my Twitter funnel collar and reminded that the work is not done by those wielding 140-character swords. The work is done by those who want to roll up their sleeves, put in the time, commit the resources, and make change.

I needed a reminder. The past year had beaten me down to trite cynicism and fearful speculating. At the convention center,





# THE WOMEN'S CONVENTION: DETROIT

I found women with a plan. They didn't take the year off to lick their wounds and read think pieces to remind them we'd all be okay – they banded together and organized to guarantee that we'll all be okay. And I thank God for those women.

The hard truth is that **women can't afford to be idle**. The battles we thought we'd won over the past three centuries are suddenly being re-opened for discussion, and they are simply too important to lose. The tide toward fair workplace policies, affordable and accessible health care, and aggressive civil rights protections for the most vulnerable among us has been altered by the earthquake of the 2016 election. I attended workshops that not only outlined the problems we're facing, but provided innovative and intersectional solutions, such as identifying strong, principled candidates and helping them organize and fundraise their way to victory on Election Day. It requires vigorous support for organizations like Planned Parenthood, ACLU, and NAACP as they fight against the problematic policies coming out of the White House and Congress in the meantime. It requires every teacher, lawyer, nurse, mother, student, server and activist to use what they have – wherever they are – to advocate for a fair and just city, state, and country. One thing I know is that the next election will be the most important election of my lifetime, and I intend to lend my voice to shape it.



**Maggie Huettl**

*Biology of Global Health Major,  
Women's Studies Minor  
Class of 2018*

The Women's Convention in Detroit was a stimulating experience that introduced me to new topics in social justice, compelled me to think about my role as a feminist and an ally, and supplemented my knowledge of topics in which I already held an interest. I attended a session about self-care and healing from personal trauma, which was a refreshing change of pace, and a reminder that I need to treat myself well to best help others. I learned more about DACA and the prison industrial complex, and I heard from inspiring women who experienced tremendous discrimination in the workplace and fought against it. I heard from speakers who talked about raising up fellow oppressed people instead of only working for yourself, and others who enabled important conversations on supporting people of color without getting in the way of their fight. Especially impactful was a session on environmental genocide, specifically referencing the water crisis in Flint, MI.

Through the entire convention, I learned to think more about others, to not take things in my life for granted, and to stay informed and keep fighting to remain an empowered activist for social justice issues relevant to my country and the world. The Women's Convention reignited my passion for

activism and gave me new channels to fuel my energy.



**Belinda Huang**

*Music Performance, Computer  
Science, and French Majors  
Class of 2020*

The attendees of the convention added up to over five thousand people from all over the country, and even the world. In that space, I felt welcomed, supported, and recognized as a leader by my peers. I chose my sessions according to what would help me develop more leadership skills as a social media influencer and as a group organizer.

A session on "Belly, Heart, Mouth: Using the Body to Become a Comfortable, Confident, and Compelling Speaker," taught that fear lives in our belly, but so does fire. We learned to combat fear by whittling it down to specific parts you can deal with and to harness fire by thinking of those you want to help. I can use this in public speaking, by switching focus on my insecurities to what I want people to take from my speech.

Dee Poku presented "A Conversation with Women in Film and TV," addressing the lack of women and POC represented—

# THE WOMEN'S CONVENTION: DETROIT

or simply misrepresented--in films. Poku stated, "We can't wait for the system to do it for us, we have to make these roles by ourselves." This inspired me to write my own stories so I can feel represented, and so people who look like me can feel represented, too.

While I learned a lot over the weekend, my biggest take-away was meeting people and hearing their stories. Since the convention was in Detroit, the environmental concerns of Flint were a big point of discussion. Until I saw that brown water from Flint, until I connected with a girl who experienced it, until I met women from one of the most polluted zip codes in the country, 48217, and heard their stories, the situation didn't feel real. It's very much a call to action because problems that may seem far off, aren't. They're present now in people lives, affecting their lives and their loved ones, and that is motivation in itself to do something and promote change.



**Lisa Marie Brimmer**  
*English Literature, M.A.*  
*Class of 2018*

Returning home from the inaugural Women's Convention was bitter and sweet. I have used what I learned in my arts-based organizing practices, both professionally and artistically. The progressive assemblage of womxn interrupted my own understanding of feminisms in action today, and yesterday and tomorrow, too. This intergenerational slice of womxn displayed a core ethic of learning and kinship across difference: class, positional authority, race, region, and more.

I met Rosa Clemente, who spoke deliberately about the imbricated nature of Latinx and Queer communities working to center the experience of Puerto Rico in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. In the PR on the Map session, Clemente, along with PR diaspora activists, elevated the key forces contributing to PR in its ecological, economic and social crises. There was a strong contingent of Detroit women in the room who were happy to poise the island-like city of Detroit as a sister city to San Juan.

I was pleasantly surprised to see the centering inclusion of Indigenous, Black, Muslim, Disabled, Puerto Rican, and immigrant communities hosted in a way that didn't simply invite, but directed

connection to ways our feminisms are intertwined. Coming together to support the keynote speaker Maxine Waters in an incredibly full room, in the shadow of Charlottesville and Harvey, is a special memory for which I thank the LDCW.



**Tri Vo**  
*Marketing Major,*  
*Social Services Management*  
*Minor, Class of 2018*

Led by incredible social justice leaders, the Conference stressed themes of love, forgiveness and strength. The first lesson I learned is that there is **no right way to be an activist**. I attended a workshop on allyship, where I learned that fighting for social justice can have detrimental effects. Oftentimes, as fighters for social justice, we try to help everyone and may develop a hero complex. It is important to remember we stand with marginalized people, not in front of or for them.

Secondly, the conference talked about the importance of self-care, emphasizing that when you serve others, you must remember to first take care of yourself if you want to be effective.

The final important lesson was the importance of creating collective power. People are inter-



Photo credit: Tri Vo

# THE WOMEN'S CONVENTION: DETROIT

sectional beings, with components of their identities being marginalized while other parts are simultaneously privileged. This complex relationship of identities provides individuals with unique experiences greater than the sum of their individual identity parts. In order to have a truly representative movement, individuals must be seen for their whole identity. In order to create collective power and promote social justice, marginalized groups must be at the table. It is not enough to simply give them a seat. If there isn't room at the table, we have to build a new table.

My experience at the Women's Convention taught me valuable lessons about the experiences of individuals different than myself. I also learned the importance of becoming civically engaged to promote social change and ways to do that in my community. This experience is one I will carry with me throughout my future endeavors.



**Kadey Seeger**  
Social Work Major,  
Class of 2019

I am extremely thankful to the University of St. Thomas and the Luann Dummer Center for Women for the opportunity to attend the Women's Convention. This opportunity was full of firsts for me. This was my first time on an airplane, first time in Detroit, first time attending an event of such magnitude; I was excited yet scared. I initially thought that I was going to be in a brand new city all by myself, except I wasn't. Not only did I have the support of members of the St. Thomas community, but I was immersed into the helpful and considerate care of thousands of women and allies.

I attended several workshops and learned about local campaign strategies, workplace equity, and federal

court decisions. I will never forget hearing Senators Amy Klobuchar and Kirsten Gillibrand speak with such powerful words that mirror my own values. I also felt incredibly empowered by the musical performances and visual art presented throughout the weekend by local talent.

Many messages were reiterated throughout the Convention. All issues are women's issues—not just birth control and reproductive rights, but police brutality, universal health care, and incarceration as well. Ideas like intersectionality—the idea that various aspects of life are interconnected and do not exist separately—were widely spread messages for attendees to learn. Lastly, politics is a journey that we are all a part of. It is crucial to not only praise those who are outstanding in their political engagement, but also those who are just learning about political processes.

Since the Women's Convention, I have called elected officials and told them about issues I care about, like DACA, the Minnesota State Grant, and Net Neutrality. I also voted in this last year's election and have increasingly thought about running for school board in my home district. I do not think I would have even considered running had I not attended the Women's Convention and reclaimed my voice. The Women's Convention **catapulted me forward in my political journey** and focused my values to become stronger and sturdier.



# FEATURED VOICES

## ACTIVISM BEYOND GRADUATION



**Cari Monroe**

*Environmental Studies Major  
Class of 2017*

I came into the world of feminism and social justice when I started college. I learned from the Internet, from my friends, and from FemCom the systems of oppression that I hadn't even realized I had felt my whole life.

Because of this, a majority of my activism has been within the walls of St. Thomas, and all of it had been while I was a student. **Almost without me even knowing, I was figuring out how to navigate activism within the educational sphere;** I learned how to use that student voice to gain power and momentum. When I graduated, I realized that was all gone. I had to figure out how to be an activist without being a student.

This was one big reason why I applied through the LDCW to go to the Women's Convention in Detroit. Not only was I worn out and feeling burnt out in our current political climate, I needed to figure out what my place within this movement looked like. The Convention was an amazing experience, and, even months later, I am still deconstructing things I learned there.

I cried, cheered (lots), engaged in countless difficult conversations, exchanged business cards, was reminded the importance of self-care and positive thoughts, and made new friends. The diversity of the conference attendees was refreshing; people of all ages and backgrounds were there, and it showed me that all types of people are willing to step up and work towards equality and social justice. It doesn't

matter who you are or where you come from to fight for what you believe in. Most importantly, this experience reminded me of **the enormous power women have in this country**, and it gave me hope that I am not alone in this fight.

I will always be attached to St. Thomas and the LDCW. (My current connection is a collaborative weekly newsletter called **Activist Digest** that I began with fellow UST student Madie Ley after last year's Women's March.) I am grateful for how my experiences at this University have shaped who I am and what I fight for. While I no longer have the same place to bring the things I learn, I'm working on finding my own place and my own identity within this same resistance.

To receive updates  
from **Activist Digest**  
and learn how to make  
your voice heard, visit  
[http://eepurl.com/  
cA9EtX](http://eepurl.com/cA9EtX)



Students, staff, and faculty mingle at the Minneapolis Chocolate Reception, February 2018.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

## KARI TAURING ON THE NECESSITY OF PERSONAL HISTORY



### Whitney Oachs

History Major  
Class of 2018

2017 pushed progressives to be more honest with ourselves within activist spaces. From unpacking white feminism, to setting higher standards for allies, last year challenged what it means to support and uplift women. Rather than remain satisfied with a bumper sticker or yard sign, 2017 emphasized reflexivity for activists of all backgrounds, begging us to take a hard look at ourselves before attempting to “help” anybody else. And for ‘89 St. Thomas alumna Kari Tauring, this practice of reflexivity is not simply an exercise, but the foundation of her career.

An expert in ancient Nordic culture, and a practicing völvá (staff-carrying woman), Tauring has dedicated her life to the exploration and dissemination of ancient Norse culture. Though applicable to the highly culturally Scandinavian Twin Cities, Tauring says **anyone can learn from delving into their öorlag (heritage).**

According to Tauring, the öorlag is the inherited experience of generations, carrying with it the generational trauma of the colonized. Though she can trace her lineage back to a small village that predates Norway’s Christianization, she says that one needn’t know their entire family history to use the öorlag as a means for reflection and decolonization.

While the wounds of imperialism are much more fresh in communities oppressed by race, class,

religion or ethnicity, Tauring wants everyone to understand how their heritage has perpetrated, and been shaped by, colonization. In particular, she emphasized her need to “peel back” her own personal Norwegian identity, after years of discomfort with the Christianized history she had grown up with. Yet it wasn’t until Tauring met St. Thomas professor, and LDCW namesake, **Dr. Luann Dummer**, that she really began the journey into her pre-Christian heritage.

During a lecture on the Indo-European family of language and the runes of the Proto-Germanic people, Dr. Dummer looked to Tauring expectantly, but was met with only confusion. Pulling her aside after class, they had a conversation that set the path for the rest of Tauring’s life, drawing her in to the world of ancient, pre-colonial Norse heritage.

Through her öorlag, Tauring has grown to interrogate not only her own history, but whiteness as a culture-killing construct as well, and it is here where she says her work becomes truly intersectional. To Tauring, if everyone can meet each other where they are at, in complete honesty about their personal and family histories, they work more productively towards mutual understanding, reconciliation, and equality. After all, if we don’t know ourselves, then how will we ever begin to know, or understand, somebody else?

For more information on the concept of the öorlag and völvá, visit [karitauring.com](http://karitauring.com).



Kari Tauring spinning yarn, representing the personal history that has already been spun.

# YARN TAMERS



Yarn Tamers is an opportunity for faculty, staff, students and outside community members to spend a relaxing hour working on yarn projects, meeting new friends and colleagues, and socializing. **Everyone is welcome!** If you do not work on any yarn craft, you can come for the social time or to get pointers from other crafters. Those who are interested can just show up at a meeting. Each year, the Yarn Tamers work on a service project of creating blankets for the women and children staying at Alexandra House who have been affected by domestic violence.

During the academic year, Yarn Tamers meet on **Tuesdays from noon - 1 pm in the Luann Dummer Center for Women (OEC 103)**. Throughout the summer, Yarn Tamers meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Monahan Plaza, weather permitting. If you would like to receive weekly reminders and updates for Yarn Tamers, please email Christine Balsley at [christine.balsley@stthomas.edu](mailto:christine.balsley@stthomas.edu), and she'll add you to the list.



**Above:** Joan Wieland and Bernadette Dehnert piece together squares for a blanket.

**Right:** Yarn Tamers enjoy the nice weather--knitting, crocheting, and spinning yarn on spinning wheels.



# SPRING 2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See the LDCW website [www.stthomas.edu/ldcw](http://www.stthomas.edu/ldcw) for further details or additional events and activities.  
(All events are held at the LDCW, OEC 103, unless otherwise noted.)

- Jan. 24 (W)**.....Identifying & Ending Human Trafficking, Bukola Oriola, 10-11:15 a.m., ASC 340
- Jan. 31 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *Girls Like Us* by Rachel Lloyd, Noon-1 p.m.
- Feb. 9 (F)**.....Feminist Friday & Photography Workshop, "Seeing the Unseen" with Drs. Debra Petersen & Heather Shirey, 1-2:30 p.m., create[space] (Co-sponsors: COJO & Library)
- Feb. 11 (Sun)**.....Mary Lou Williams: Music for Peace, Reimagined, 2-3 p.m., Aquinas Chapel
- Feb. 12 (M)**.....*And Still We Rise*, "Fixing My Sister's Crown—Black Women Sisterhood," 5:30-7 p.m.
- Feb. 15 (Th)**....."From Weinstein to Lauer: Sexual Harassment in the Workplace," 11:30-1 p.m., Wolfe Hall, (Co-Sponsored with BLAW Club & Opus College of Business,)
- Feb. 16 (F)**.....Minneapolis Chocolate Reception & Feminist Friday, "The Poetics of Protest" with Dr. Emily James, Rachel Busse, & Kerry Kraemer, Terrence Murphy Hall 450, 2-4 p.m.
- Feb. 20 (T)**.....Extra LDCW Book Circle, *It's What I Do: A Photographer's Life of Love and War* by Lynsey Addario, Noon-1 p.m.
- Feb. 28 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *It's What I Do* by Lynsey Addario, Noon-1 p.m.
- March 8 (Th)**.....**Women's History Month Lecture by Lynsey Addario, 7:30 p.m., OEC Auditorium**
- March 15 (Th)**.....Andrea Jenkins: Women's History Month, 6-7 p.m., ASC 340  
(Co-sponsors SDIS & DAB)
- March 21 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *Mean Spirit* by Linda Hogan, Noon-1 p.m.
- April**.....FemCom, Clothesline Project
- April 13 (F)**.....Feminist Friday, "Identity & Expression in Native American Art," 12-1 p.m.
- April 19 (Th)**.....FemCom, Take Back The Night
- April 25 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *Women and Economics* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Noon-1 p.m.
- April 26 (Th)**.....UAW Spring Reception & Awards Presentation, 4-6 p.m., MCH 100
- April 27 (F)**.....Feminist Friday, "Activating Feminism For the Future," Dr. Katharine Hill & Detroit Women's Convention Participants Panel, Noon-1 p.m.
- May 4 (F)**.....LDCW 2017-18 Grant Recipient Presentations, 12-1 pm
- May 30 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *Class Action: The Story of Lois Jenson and the Landmark Case that Changed Sexual Harassment Law* by Clara Bingham, Noon-1 p.m.
- June 27 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *Animal's People* by Indra Sinha, Noon-1 p.m.
- July 25 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *The Meaning of Freedom and Other Difficult Dialogues* by Angela Davis, Noon-1 p.m.
- Aug. 29 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *A Living Label: An Inspirational Memoir & Guide* by Bukola Oriola, Noon-1 p.m.



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Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.,  
Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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